

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims (~~striking through~~ indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously entered) A safety rope system for preventing injury to a user should the user fall from an elevated position, comprising:

a safety harness to be worn by the user;

a standing rope line for attachment to a tree, pole, or the like, with a first end of the standing rope line being adapted to be secured to the tree, pole, or the like; and

a sliding rope coupler for attaching the safety harness to the standing rope line, the sliding rope coupler comprising a length of rope with multiple loops wrapped about the standing line of rope to be slidable along at least a portion of the length of the standing rope line, with the sliding rope coupler having its ends joined together for attaching the safety harness thereadjacent, wherein said sliding rope coupler is freely repositionable along said standing rope line when not loaded, but resists sudden downward movement relative to said standing rope line when under load.

10. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said the first end of the standing rope line comprises a looped portion.

11. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said standing rope line comprises a clip.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein the sliding rope coupler is made from a rope that has a smaller diameter than that of the standing rope line.

14. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein the sliding rope coupler comprises a Prusik hitch.

15. (Currently amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, further comprising a carabiner for releasably securing the sliding rope coupler to the ~~standing rope line~~ safety harness.

16. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said safety harness comprises a belt.

17. (Previously entered) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said safety harness comprises a multi-point body harness.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled)